

**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**BUDGET HEARINGS**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2005**

**Board of Finance Members Present:** Robert K. Pagani-Chairman, Richard J. Cleary, Robert J. Clements, Vaughn E. Gerber, Mark A. Joyse

**Board of Finance Members Absent:** Barry C. Pinto

**Others Present:** G. Daigle, J. Snyder, A. Ugolik-Budget Advisory Comm, C. Pippin-CLFD Chief, M. Varney-EVFD Chief, R. Tedford-P&R Dir, D. Crayton-Dir Human Svs, E. Graziani-Dir Sr. Ctr, P. Hany, J. Strieber-EVAC, A. L. Miller-Selectman, S. Phillips-Hall Mem Lib, P. Recker-Cultural Arts Comm, E. Boothroyd, M. Davis-Town Planner, M. Weekes and S. Luginbuhl-Registrars, JI Reporter

Chairman Robert Pagani opened the hearings at 7:05 pm.

Crystal Lake Fire Dept.

Chief Chuck Pippin told the Board of Finance that there was no increase this year. Mr. Pagani asked him what he had done for heating fuel since the new furnaces were installed. He stated that they should be more efficient. Mr. Pippin decreased some items and increased others to compensate in those areas.

Ellington Volunteer Fire Dept.

Chief Michael Varney stated that his increases were in the part time account for data entry work that is now being done on a voluntary basis. Training costs have increased and utilities are based on a 5 year average. Account 250 Lab Testing Fees have increased. There is now money in their budget for custodial services for cleaning the firehouse. In the past it was done by members on an irregular basis. Account 271 Repairs and Maintenance increases are related to hose and pump testing that will be done by outside contractors. The items in technical equipment have been listed in priority for the Board of Finance to fund as they see fit. Account 766 Building Equipment is for a new key system for the firehouse. Mr. Pagani asked Mr. Varney about the asbestos problem. Mr. Varney is getting quotes for abating the asbestos floor tiles and the hose tower.

Hall Memorial Library

Sue Phillips presented this budget. It is within the 1% increase guideline. The building maintenance has been increasing steadily due to the age of the building which is 13 years. The library circulation system has been changed and it will save some money in the long run on services. Some painting is being done and the carpets will be cleaned. Any additional funding she receives will be put into the books and materials. The budget for this item is back to the 2001 level. She stated that she had no roof leaks this winter.

Parks & Recreation Dept.

Robert Tedford passed out graphs showing the overlapping of hours for parks and recreation programs. He then stated that they try to do zero base budgeting. The revenues for day camp have increased from going to full day which has worked out very well. They have not increased the beach fees. Mr. Joyse asked him if the P&R Dept. did any long term planning for town properties as pertains to their programs. He stated that the P&R Commission will be meeting tomorrow night. They have been working with the conservation commission and the planning and zoning commission on future planning.

Human Services/Senior Center/Youth Services

Doris Crayton explained that the increases in these budgets would be due to the expansion of the Senior Center, specifically in utilities. A priority need expressed was the replacement of the tile floor in the older portion of the center. Mr. Pagani stated that he would look at it. There are two new funding agencies in this budget. One is the Potters House and the other is Hockanum Industries. The Potters House is a daycare facility in Rockville with fees based on income, and Hockanum Industries provides training, employment, etc. for adults with development disabilities.

Board of Assessment Appeals

No one appeared.

The Chairman called a recess at 7:50 pm. Hearings reconvened at 8:00 pm.

Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps

John Strieber stated that everything stayed the same except for the part time and full time items. These items have been broken out separately for accounting purposes at the Finance Officer's request. Mr. Pagani stated that there needs to be a corresponding revenue item for the technical equipment. He also wants to meet with Mr. Strieber to discuss the Ambulance Corps' letter regarding lap top computers.

Planning Dept.

Matthew Davis, Town Planner presented these budgets. The Zoning Board of Appeals' budget has not changed. The Conservation Commission's budget includes a line item of \$32,000 for consultants, appraisals, legal fees, surveys, grants, etc. The Inland/Wetlands Commission's budget increased \$500 for training. The Economic Development Commission has an item for \$5,000 for consulting that the First Selectman asked be put in. The thought behind this is to keep the commission actively chasing grants, etc. and the additional manpower needed to do this. The Planning & Zoning Commission increase of \$150,000 break down is \$75,000 for the Plan of Development and \$75,000 for Zoning Regulation Amendments. The Town Planner would like to see the Plan of Development finished within a 6-8 month period. He felt that the zoning regulation amendments figure could be cut some. He stated that Ellington is the fifth fastest growing town in Connecticut.

The Planning Department's budget shows increases in salaries. They made a verbal offer of \$45,000 for a new Zoning Enforcement Officer. They are currently paying an outside agency to do the work.

Registrar of Voters

Sue Luginbuhl stated that their budget is within the 1% guideline. The Federal Government is mandating that all Town have one new voting machine. Therefore their training and supplies accounts were increased to account for this.

Cultural Arts Commission

There are six concerts scheduled for 2005. Donations have been received and they have a new member that is experienced in fundraising. They are planning to offer sponsorships for the concert series and sponsors for individual concerts. The Commission would like to see their role be to help other organizations with cultural activities through funding. When someone comes to them with an idea and a place to hold an event, they would like to tell them what needs to be done and give them some funds to do it with. This is what they see their role as other than the weekly summer concert series. The question of the sound system rental came up. It costs about \$4,000 per season for them to rent it. Mr. Pagani stated that the High School has a portable sound system and the High School students know how to use it. Mr. Recker will contact Mr. Prenetta in this regard to see if there is interest in letting them borrow it and who can run it. The Cultural Arts Commission is looking for \$18,601 from the town with projected revenue of \$5,000.

Permanent Building Committee

This budget will be the same as last year.

Public Safety Commission

Ernie Boothroyd stated that the Public Safety Commission could not hold meetings with their present budget of \$100. They need to have a recording secretary that is not a Commission member and there is only \$100 in the budget. He wants to ask for money to keep it alive while it is still a viable Commission in the Town Charter. He is suggesting that the Commission be reestablished in order review the Fire Departments as it relates to the whole town, possibly revamping it to one fire commission with two departments under it.

Mr. Clements agreed with Mr. Boothroyd. Mr. Joyse asked why Mr. Boothroyd is not on the study group committee that has been meeting on the public safety issue. Selectman Miller will take this back to the Board of Selectmen who appointed the study group in the first place.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN THE  
HEARING AT 9:30 PM.**

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Smith, Clerk